

Ag Faculty Council Meeting
July 13, 2010
Meeting
Acting Secretary: Tim Stombaugh

Members Present: Ric Bessin, Lisa Collins, Claudia Heath, Brian Lee, Vanessa Jackson, Kenny Seebold, Tim Stombaugh

Minutes of May 10 meeting were approved by unanimous decision.

Preconvocation (PC) and Convocation ©: Because of timeliness issues, Bessin made an executive decision to schedule the events on the afternoon of Aug. 17. We need AFC members to attend the meeting. There has been an issue in past with faculty attendance. It was decided to send more notices to encourage faculty participation. Discussion ensued about the names C and PC. PC is really New Faculty Workshop. All agreed that "New Faculty Workshop" was a better title than PC. C is fall kickoff, pep talk, fall bash event that includes the Dean's comments about policy, budget, direction of the college, etc. Discussion ensued about possible name of events, particularly the C. Suggestions for alternative names included the Fall Stampede, Fall Faculty Gathering, Faculty of Ag Bash. Discussion also ensued about who to invite to the meeting. The question arose about the need for both the C and the COA faculty meeting later in the fall semester. The group gravitated toward the idea of a more extended meeting for new faculty in August, then only one faculty meeting/kickoff bash later. Bessin will contact the Dean about this idea, and we will wait to hear his response. The group also liked the idea of moving the singular faculty meeting earlier in the semester, and suggested Sept. 9-14, or after equine games.

Handling of Course Evaluations: Do we need to recommend a procedure for handling written comments by students? Departments handle them differently. One main concern is the confidentiality of the comments – are they intended as communication between the student and instructor only, or are the comments open to review by others? Who should type up the comments – student workers, staff, etc.? We acknowledged that we should talk to someone from the University Institutional Research about how they plan to handle evaluations in the future, particularly as we think about moving to electronic evaluations. Bessin will poll department chairs about current practice for handling written comments.

Appointment and promotion of lecturers: Discussion was in response to new AR's regarding appointment of lecturers. There are some lecturers in the COA who will be considered for promotion from lecturer to senior lecturer. The COA does not have a statement of scholarship metrics that should be considered for promotion of lecturers, and we need begin drafting this document. The suggestion was made to invite someone from the committee that is looking at evaluation of service learning activities.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25.